



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

March 14, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: MOTORIST STRIKES YOUNG GIRL IN SOUTHEAST CALGARY



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/new-brighton-motorist-strikes-girl-1.3486861>

WARM UP

Look at the title. What does motorist mean? What does strike mean?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:08)

Listen to the first newscast once for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes. Then listen to the newscast again. Try to write down the words that you hear and do not understand.

Story details:

Vocabulary

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the vocabulary from the newscast below. Match the words with the correct definitions. The first one is done for you.

#	VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
F	serious	A. the driver of an automobile; driver
	stable	B. people trained to give emergency medical care
	non-life threatening	C. accident; crash; hit; wreck
	motorist	D. a person walking along a road; a person on foot
	struck	E. a vehicle equipped for taking sick or injured people to and from the hospital, especially in emergencies
	paramedics	F. bad; critical; grave;
	collision	G. place; location; the place where something happened
	pedestrian	H. transferred; moved; carried; to take or carry someone or something from one place to another
	transported	I. not getting worse in health after an accident
	ambulance	J. examining the facts; looking into; analyzing
	scene	K. not very dangerous; not deadly
	investigating	L. hit

Look at the words used in the script below to help you if needed.

A young girl is in serious but stable and non-life threatening condition after a motorist struck her in southeast Calgary last night.

Paramedics responded to a call regarding a collision between a pedestrian and a motorist at around 6:45 p.m. on Thursday.

The girl was transported by ground ambulance to the Alberta Children's Hospital.

The driver remained at the scene. Calgary Police are investigating.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:08)

Listen to the newscast again. Follow along with the script above.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

Discuss or consider the following questions.

- What do you think of this story?
- How often do you hear of pedestrians being hit by motorists?
- In your opinion, is this a serious issue? Why or why not?

NEWSCAST 2: LIBERALS SHIFT IMMIGRATION FOCUS TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/liberals-immigration-levels-plan-2016-1.3479764>

WARM UP

Look at the title and the picture above. What do you think this story is about? Have you heard anything in the news recently about the Canadian Liberal government and immigration?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:40)

Listen to the newscast. While you listen, follow along with the transcript below.

The federal government plans to admit a large number of new permanent residents. Previously, their focus was on skilled applicants. However, now the Liberals are nearly doubling the number of humanitarian admissions and tripling the number of spots for private sponsors. They are also increasing available spaces in the family sponsored program compared to past years.

These increases will result in 305,000 new permanent residents to Canada - the highest in decades despite their planned decrease in economic immigration.

Conservative immigration critic Michelle Rempel criticized the government's decision to admit fewer economic immigrants at a time when the workforce is aging, the economy is slowing, and refugees are waiting for months to have long-term affordable housing.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the script of the newscast. Underline the words you do not understand. Make a list of the words below and look up their meanings in your dictionary.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Work alone or with a partner to respond to the questions below.

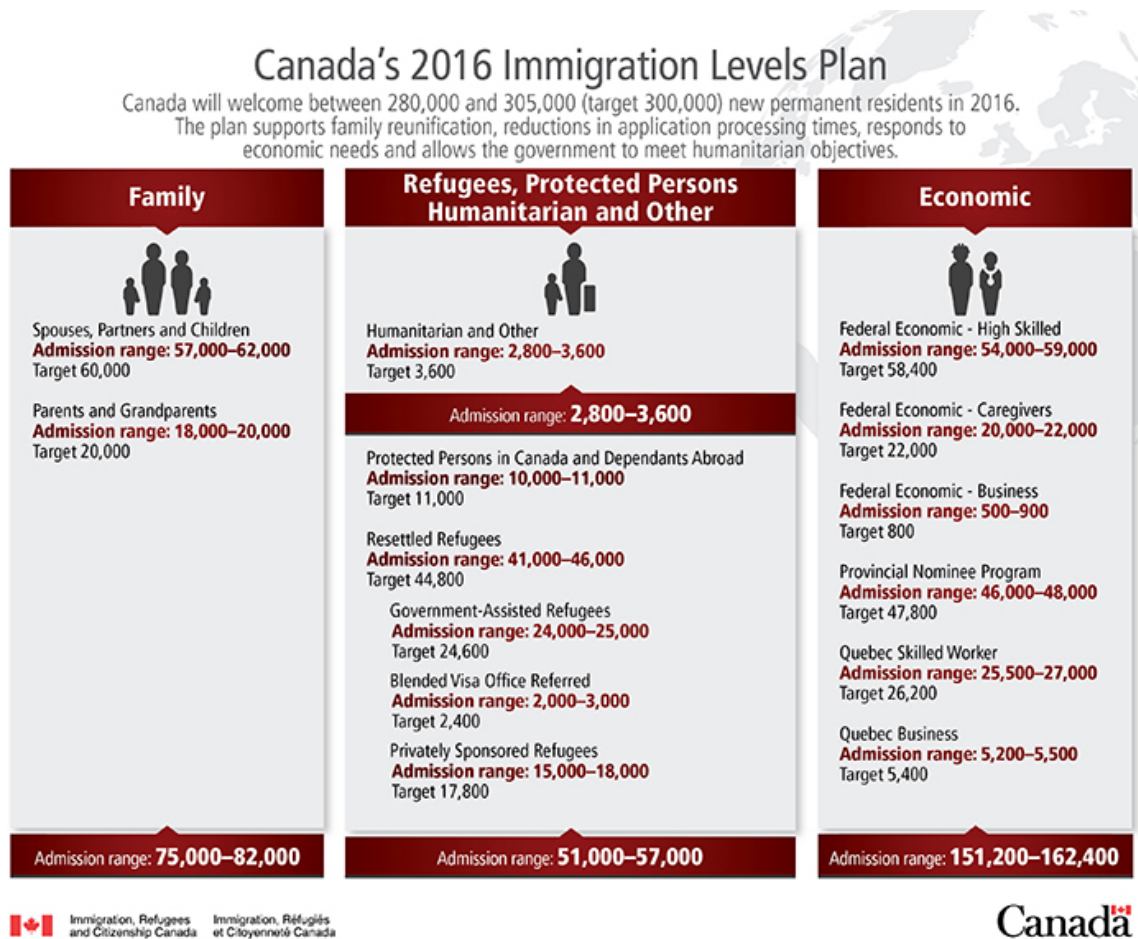
1. What does the federal government plan to do?
2. What type of applicants did the government focus on previously?
3. Which word best describes spots?
marks dots locations spaces stains
4. What is happening with family sponsored applications?
5. How many new permanent immigrants are expected?
6. What is happening with the economic applications?
7. What does Michelle Rempel think of the Liberal governments plan?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:40)

Listen to the newscast again.

READING ACTIVITY 1

Look at the information below. Make 5 sentences about the information provided.



Check source if table above is not clear:

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&ctr.page=1&nid=1038699>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

NEWSCAST 3: DIABETES-SNIFFING DOG, JEDI, SAVES 7-YEAR-OLD YOUNG MASTER, LUKE



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/diabetes-sniffing-dog-saves-7-year-old-1.3485101>

WARM UP

What is a service dog? What types of people do service dogs work with? Read the definition below.

Definition of a service dog:

A service dog is trained to help people with disabilities such as people that are blind or cannot hear or people that have seizures or diabetes. Some service dogs are bred and trained by service dog organizations. Labrador Retrievers, German Sheppards, and Golden Retrievers are the most common types used as service dogs. These dogs are known for their good temperaments, trainability and good health (physical structure and stamina).

Look at the title above. What is diabetes? What is the name of the dog? What is the name of the boy? What do you think this story is about?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 1:44)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary below. Refer to the script below to see how the words are used in the story.

Jedi	a character in Star Wars films, trained to keep peace and justice in the universe
sniff	to smell something
fast asleep	sleeping deeply
blood sugar	the amount of glucose in the blood
persistent	determined; to continue doing something until you are successful
alerting	warning someone of a threat or danger
bowing	bending the head or upper body
gesture	a movement of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning
paw	an animal's foot
indicate	to show; point out
despite	in spite of
continuous	ongoing
glucose	
adopted	take care of; to take as one's own
diagnosed	the reason for an illness or other problem

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 1:44)

Listen to the newscast again. Follow along with the script below.

Luke Nuttall, a seven-year-old Los Angeles boy, has the force of Jedi — his diabetes-sniffing service dog — with him.

Last week, when everyone in his house was fast asleep, Luke's blood sugar dropped.

The persistent pup was able to sniff the change in Luke's blood and woke up Luke's mother, Dorrie Nuttall. He kept alerting her by bowing — a gesture he uses to indicate low blood-sugar levels. He raises his paw to indicate higher levels.

Dorrie tested Luke's blood and saw that his levels were falling fast despite his continuous glucose monitor showing he was OK.

Nuttall adopted Jedi when Luke was diagnosed at the age of two. She worked with a local company who offered help in training the puppy. Now, Jedi knows how to alert anyone at home when Luke's blood sugar levels go up or down.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS: What do you think of service dogs? Do you know any?

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of March 14th.	0:00
Newscast 1 <i>Motorist strikes young girl in southeast Calgary</i> http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/new-brighton-motorist-strikes-girl-1.3486861	<p>A young girl is in serious but stable and non-life threatening condition after a motorist struck her in southeast Calgary last night.</p> <p>Paramedics responded to a call regarding a collision between a pedestrian and a motorist at around 6:45 p.m. on Thursday.</p> <p>The girl was transported by ground ambulance to the Alberta Children's Hospital.</p> <p>The driver remained at the scene. Calgary Police are investigating.</p>	0:08
Newscast 2 Liberals shift immigration focus to family reunification, refugee resettlement http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/liberals-immigration-levels-plan-2016-1.3479764	<p>The federal government plans to admit a large number of new permanent residents. Previously, their focus was on skilled applicants. However, now the Liberals are nearly doubling the number of humanitarian admissions and tripling the number of spots for private sponsors. They are also increasing available spaces in the family sponsored program compared to past years.</p> <p>These increases will result in 305,000 new permanent residents to Canada - the highest in decades despite their planned decrease in economic immigration.</p> <p>Conservative immigration critic Michelle Rempel criticized the government's decision to admit fewer economic immigrants at a time when the workforce is aging, the economy is slowing, and refugees are waiting for months to have long-term affordable housing.</p>	0:40

<p>Newscast 3</p> <p><i>Diabetes-sniffing dog, Jedi, saves 7-year-old young master, Luke</i></p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/diabetes-sniffing-dog-saves-7-year-old-1.3485101</p>	<p>Luke Nuttall, a seven-year-old Los Angeles boy, has the force of Jedi — his diabetes-sniffing service dog — with him.</p> <p>Last week, when everyone in his house was fast asleep, Luke's blood sugar dropped.</p> <p>The persistent pup was able to sniff the change in Luke's blood and woke up Luke's mother, Dorrie Nuttall. He kept alerting her by bowing — a gesture he uses to indicate low blood-sugar levels. He raises his paw to indicate higher levels.</p> <p>Dorrie tested Luke's blood and saw that his levels were falling fast despite his continuous glucose monitor showing he was OK.</p> <p>Nuttall adopted Jedi when Luke was diagnosed at the age of two. She worked with a local company who offered help in training the puppy. Now, Jedi knows how to alert anyone at home when Luke's blood sugar levels go up or down.</p>	<p>1:44</p>
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**ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1:
MOTORIST STRIKES YOUNG GIRL IN SOUTHEAST CALGARY**

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

#	VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
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H	transported	I. not getting worse in health after an accident
E	ambulance	J. examining the facts; looking into; analyzing
G	scene	K. not very dangerous; not deadly
J	investigating	L. hit

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: LIBERALS SHIFT IMMIGRATION FOCUS TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the federal government plan to do?
The federal government plans to admit a large number of new permanent residents.
2. What type of applicants did the government focus on previously?
Previously, their focus was on skilled applicants / Skilled applicants
3. Which word best describes spots?
marks dots locations spaces stains
4. What is happening with family sponsored applications?
They are increasing.
5. How many new permanent immigrants are expected?
305,000
6. What is happening with the economic applications?
They are decreasing.
7. What does Michelle Rempel think of the Liberal governments plan?
She doesn't agree with the federal government's plan to admit fewer economic immigrants.

READING ACTIVITY 1

Responses will vary.

Examples include:

1. Canada plans to admit between 280,000 and 305,000 new permanent residents in 2016.
2. The target for spouses, partners, and children is 60,000.
3. The admission range for refugees, protected persons, humanitarian and other category is 2,800-3,600.
4. The target range for privately sponsored refugees is 17,800.
5. The target for highly skilled applicants is 58,400.

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca